1	2	3	4	5
1991-92	12.1	12.0	29.3	13.94
1992-93	15.1	13.1	(−) 12.1	17.58
1993-94	12.5	10.5	48.8	13.10
1994-95	11.1	14.3	27.6	20.54

*Relates to calender year.

(d) As the cotton cloth is a value added item, its prices are influenced by number of factors. Hence, it is difficult to maintain price parity between raw cotton and cotton cloth.

Falling Wheat Output

1920. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are aware of falling wheat output in North India during the past few years;

(b) if so, whether agriculture experts from India and foreign countries are examining causes of stagnation in wheat production;

(c) if so, the factors responsible for the decline in wheat output in North India; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to boost the production of wheat in North India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) During the last few years the wheat output in North India has not fallen. In fact during the year 1994-95 it has reached a record level of 65.47 million tonnes with major contribution coming from North India.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) In order to increase the production and productivity of wheat, a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Central Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Wheat) is being implemented in the States of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan (Northern) & Uttar Pradesh (Western). In addition to this, a Central Sector Wheat Minikit Demonstration Programme is also being implemented in wheat growing States for popularising newly released varieties.

Plan of NRIBHCO for not taking over fertilizer units in Russia and USA

1921. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether KRIBHCO has shelved its plans for taking over fertilizer units in Russia and USA;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the amount spent on the preparations for taking over including Consultant's fee, foreign tours etc.; and

(c) if not, the amount allocated for the take over and scheduled date of production from these units?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Pursuant to Government approval to the proposal of KRIBHCO for initiating the 'Due Diligence Process' (Preparation of the Detained Feasibility Report) for acquiring equity stakes in phosphatic fertilizer plant(s) in USA/Russia, one plant in USA and two plants in Russia were shortlisted. The report of the Due Diligence Process was examined by a Committee of Senior Executives of KRIBHCO. As per the assessment of the Committee, the acquisition was not found to be techno-economically viable. The Board of Directors of KRIBHCO have, therefore, finally decided not to go in for any investment in acquiring phosphatic manufacturing facilities either in USA or in Russia.

In the above exercise of 'Due Diligence

Process', an amount of US $ 7,67,198 has been paid to the Consultants till date. The expenditure on foreign travel is Rs. 39.59 lakh.

(c) Does not arise.

Conference of State Agricultural Ministers

1922. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference of the State Agriculture Ministers from South was held in Bangalore recently;

(b) if so, the agenda of the meeting along with other related matters standing the demand raised by the States Agriculture Ministers in the conference; and

(c) the decision, if any, taken on their demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) A Conference of State Agriculture Ministers from South States was held in Bangalore on 14.11.1995.

(b) The agenda of the Conference was as follows:

(i) Fixation of Minimum Retail Prices (MRPs) for decontrolled fertilizers.

(ii) Restoration of subsidy on P & K fertilizers.

(iii) Urea-policy issues.

(iv) Use of subsidised fertilizers for manufacture of mixtures.

(v) Inter-State coordinator Management.

(vi) Inter-State quality control measures of pesticides.

(vii) Mutual cooperation among State Seeds Corporations.

(c) As a result of the deliberation of the Agriculture Ministers from the Southern States the following resolutions were submitted to the Government of India in the form of a Memorandum.

(i) Policy on subsidy on Phosphatic/Potassic/Complex fertilizers to be restored at levels prevailing during 1991-92.

(ii) The present policy of control on urea at the present price level should be continued.

(iii) The use of subsidised urea for fertilizer mixture should be permitted.

(iv) Allotment of Railway wagons to Southern States should be made for movement of fertilisers on top priority, the availability in peak consumption periods should be ensured.

(v) A bold policy should be adopted for procurement of surplus sugar and the proposal of the State Government to expand the crushing capacity of the existing sugar factories besides setting up of additional sugar factories in the region should be considered.

The Memorandum is under consideration of the Government.

Exemption for New Drugs under DPCO

1923. SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any exemption for New Drugs from the Drug Price Control Order; and

(b) if so, the number of years for which such exemption is granted to such drugs?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Under para 25 (2)(f) of the DPCO, 1995, a manufacturer of a new drug